assistance to the States on the basis of their existing exports as well as on the basis of incremental growth in exports. The funds may be used by the State for the development of cold chains from the farms to the ports/airports and setting up of primary processing centres for grading, packaging etc. for promoting agro exports, development of complementary infrastructure such as roads connecting the production centres with the ports, creation of new export promotion industrial parks and augmenting facilities in the existing ones, research, development and marketing including development of design centres of State specific ethnic products etc.

A provisions of Rs. 97 crore has been proposed for this scheme in the budget for 2001-02. The question of distribution of this amount amongst States and its utilisation by them will arise only after this provisions is formally approved.

Export targets in Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans

4136. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase export during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans;

b) whether steps are being taken to give further boost to export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Increasing exports in the plan periods is a constant endeavour of the Government. Towards this, a number of steps have been taken to enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports. Measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-02 *inter alia* include promotion of agricultural exports, measures related to Special

Economic Zones, market access initiative scheme, setting up business cum trade facilitation centre and trade portal, strengthening of the Advance Licensing Scheme, policies related to Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC), Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB) etc.

(d) The export target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan is 11.8% per annum. The target for the Tenth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Amendments in Foreign Trade Act

4137. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to reimpose quantitative restrictions to prevent a sudden surge in imports and to protect the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the time by which such restrictions are likely to be reimposed;

(c) whether necessary amendments in the Foreign Trade (Regulation and Development) Act would be made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The Government is considering to amend the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to enable the Government to impose such quantitative restrictions on imports as are in accordance with the Agreement on Safeguards of WTO. The Agreement on Safeguards enables member countries to impose quantitative restrictions by way of emergency action, if imports of such articles are in such increased quantities as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to domestic producers of like or directly competitive articles, with a more liberal dispensation for such imports from the developing countries.